

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6244

BILL NUMBER: HB 1335

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 20, 2007

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Child Visitation and Electronic Communication Time.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Thompson

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: No Fiscal Impact

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a court: (1) may grant a custodial parent, noncustodial parent, and grandparent electronic communication time with a child if electronic equipment is reasonably available; and (2) may not use the availability of electronic communication time as a factor to justify or support relocation of a child. It also provides that electronic communication time: (1) must supplement and not be a replacement or substitute for a custodial parent's custody or a noncustodial parent's parenting time with the child; and (2) may not be a factor in the calculation of child support.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill allows the court to order a probation department, county office of the Department of Child Services, or any licensed child placing agency to supervise electronic communications between a child and a child's custodial parent, noncustodial parent, or grandparent. The Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines currently allow for communications between a child and parent, including e-mail. In addition, the Indiana Judicial Center (IJC) reports that courts currently order electronic communications as a part of visitation for certain children.

The IJC also reports that supervision of visits can occur at varying locations (for example, at a relative's house or at a library). Fees associated with the visitations may vary as a result. Individuals (i.e., custodial parent, noncustodial parent, or grandparent) would be responsible for payment of any fees associated with electronic communication supervised visits. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Jeff Bercovitz, Indiana Judicial Center; Indiana Supreme Court, *Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines*.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.